

In Memoriam



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing those individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens. One of these individuals was **Leland M. Hawes, Jr.**, a Florida native, one of the Tampa area's most beloved citizens and well-known journalist, who passed away on Saturday, May 18, 2013 at age 83; and

WHEREAS, born on June 18, 1929, Mr. Hawes grew up in Thonotosassa, and his fascination with the written word began in his father's home office with an old L.C. Smith typewriter, and at the age of eleven he published his own weekly newspaper *The Flint Lake Diver*, with the motto *The Diver Comes Up With the News* and a circulation of about 150 subscribers in the community. He attended Hillsborough County Schools and was a graduate of Plant High School where he worked on the student newspaper, was editor of the 1947 class yearbook, *The Panther*, and worked for the *Tampa Daily Times* newspaper during his senior year; and

WHEREAS, while attending the University of Florida, Mr. Hawes served as campus correspondent for the *Tampa Daily Times*, and upon graduation, began his journalism career with them in 1950 where he received valuable experience reporting locally and around the state in a wide range of areas including government, police, and court trials, and in 1952 he joined *The Tampa Morning Tribune*, now *The Tampa Tribune*; and

WHEREAS, Leland Hawes believed curiosity, interest in people and an ability to persist made a great journalist, and during his 52 year career with *The Tampa Tribune*, Mr. Hawes reported on nearly every facet of life in the Tampa community and throughout Florida, including major news stories and features, politics, hurricanes, rallies, and police raids, making him an expert on the history and culture of our region, and in 1982 he became the reporter and editor for the beloved **History & Heritage** column for the newspaper's Baylife section, sharing with citizens his passion of area history and preserving stories of our community's past in print, and he was known in the newspaper industry as a truly professional journalist, one who provided accurate and balanced reporting, and one others sought to emulate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hawes became a member of the American Amateur Press Association (AAPA) in 1942 and served the organization in several official capacities, including recently as Board of Directors Chairman, and he hosted six of AAPA conventions in Tampa, was on the board of the Tampa Bay History Center, and served on the committee that selected the first six figures from Tampa's past to be honored with a bust along the Tampa Riverwalk; and

WHEREAS, among his many achievements and acknowledgements, Mr. Hawes' journal, *The Gator Growl*, has won several AAPA Laureate Awards over the years and is still circulated, he was awarded the Hillsborough County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award in 1989, the Tampa Bay History Center and the University of South Florida's Florida Studies Center established the **Leland Hawes Prize** in Florida History in his name, and the Tampa Bay History Center honored him with the privilege of cutting the ribbon at its Grand Opening in 1996, and held a special luncheon in recognition of his devotion and contributions to history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hawes was especially known as a gentleman who treated others with great respect and he held honesty and accuracy in great esteem, and although we are grieved at the loss of this outstanding citizen, his legacy will continue to live on through the improvements he brought to our community, the history he preserved for us, and in all those whose lives he has touched; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby urge all citizens to join me in publicly expressing sorrow and heartfelt appreciation to the Leland M. Hawes, Jr. Family, his Sister Virginia Hawes Knight, and other family members, and to express our hopes that they will take solace in their cherished memories and the impact of his life on our community.

Dated this 24th day of May, 2013.



Mayor

